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IHC-D-113.4/23
4 March 1970

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD
INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION HANDLING COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM FOR: IHC Members

SUBJECT: Substantive Information to be used in an Improved
Community Information Handling System

REFERENCE: IHC-D-113.4/17, 12 May 1969

1. The Chairman has requested that the memorandum attached be forwarded to you for any comments you may have prior to sending it to the SD&DS.

2. The Chairman has expressed on several occasions his concern over the lack of progress on the identification of substantive information to be handled in the COINS Experiment and in an improved community information handling system. Additionally, the COINS Executive Agent in December 1968 stated that the identification of information for the COINS Experiment was critical because the participants were not considered in the design of the files currently in COINS.

3. The Chairman has decided to assign the task to the SD&DS and that it be the Subcommittee's priority task.

4. Request your views, if any, be provided to the staff as soon as possible, preferably by 16 March 1970.

Executive Secretary

Attachment: a/s

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IHC Members & Observers
SD&DS

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ATTACHMENT (DRAFT)
4 March 1970

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD
INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION HANDLING COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, System Design and Development Subcommittee

SUBJECT: Substantive Information to be used in an Improved
Information Handling System

REFERENCE: (a) IHC-D-113.4/17, 12 May 1969
(b) IHC-M-19, 12 November 1969

1. The referenced memorandum (a) assigns responsibility for identifying files to be used in an improved community information handling system to the IHC principals. Each member was asked to examine projected needs and capabilities in order to recommend file(s) of information he desires or would like to have in a system. From a subsequent IHC discussion in October 1969 (reference (b)) it became apparent that a concept was needed on which the principals could base this identification of files of information for use in the COINS Experiment or in an improved community information handling system.

Assignment

2. You are requested to:

a. Develop a concept which can guide the principals in identifying information which can be used by intelligence analysts in the COINS Experiment or in an improved community information handling system.

b. Recommend in priority order substantive topics on which the principals can concentrate their investigations leading to the identification of information in which their organizations are especially interested.

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c. Project in general terms the environment of a computer-based community information handling system which may be practical within the next five years, using the lessons learned in the COINS Experiment and any other pertinent interagency activity.

Comment

3. As a point of departure for your assignment, you are requested to consider the value of adopting a single substantive area to determine what information should be in the system. Whether information is already available in machineable file form should not be your prime consideration at this time. The subject area should ensure at least one set of users in each of the organizations participating in the COINS Experiment or, insofar as you can determine, in a future system. Files of information of significant interest currently in COINS may well be considered for inclusion in the system in addition to the subject(s) you identify. The reasons for lack of user interest in the files currently in the COINS Experiment should guide you in selecting a subject area. As the capacity (and resources) of the system grows, additional sets of subjects can be added.

4. The procedures and agreements established for COINS under which most participants contribute files should not restrict or unduly influence your determination of a subject area. For example, all participants need not have a file in the system for the subject area selected. One participant might have all of the information on a given subject. The identification of a subject

area with the most user interest should be foremost in your determination regardless of where information on that subject resides in the community.

5. In order to guide you in your task, several suggested preliminary objectives are given below. They are not listed in priority order nor are they mutually exclusive.

- a. Provide a useful information service not now available.
- b. Replace an ineffective information service now in existence.
- c. Move more information with less paper.
- d. Reduce analyst research points.

6. The Committee has expressed a desire to define the "environment" in which the information will reside and be used before identifying the substantive information to be placed in a community system. You should be guided in your development of environmental parameters by the lessons learned in the COINS Experiment. Such parameters should be expressed in general terms, i.e., they should constitute a system concept--not a system description. For example, the system will:

- a. utilize digital computers.
- b. provide an on-line, remote access, query and retrieval capability. Depending on file size and user needs the system might provide interactive/quick-response or batch processing.

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- c. initially supply information from formatted data bases.
- d. have a minimal computation capability.
- e. strive to provide access to information 8 hrs/day, 5 days/week.
- f. provide overnight service for batch queries, possibly with courier delivery output.
- g. operate under conditions established by a technical or administrative solution to the problem of jointly handling SI and TK information.
- h. employ, at least initially, few data standards.
- i. not feature, at least initially, a common interrogation language.

7. The resource environment is well known. It is expected that more intelligence must be handled with the same resources and, in many instances, with less. More importantly, concern yourself with the functions of intelligence and how they can be served best.

8. You are requested to provide me with a progress report by 1 June 1970. Your report should include an estimated completion date and any requests for assistance.

D R A F T

Chairman

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COINS Project Manager